THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) GAIL have prepared a report on linking of ONGC's and OIL's gas fields in the North-East to form a grid which would give flexibility in supply of gas for production of fertilizer, power and use by other industries.

Late Supply of LPG Refills

1267. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons for shortage of refills of cooking gas in Delhi and their supply to consumers at their home after many days from the date of booking is that the LPG dealers prefer to supply the LPG cylinders to hotels and restaurants, dhabas and commercial institutions on a premium; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to ensure that LPG cylinders are not supplied to commercial institutions in this way at the cost of small consumers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir; a temporary shortage had developed in Delhi during recent months on account of overall shortfall in the bulk availability of LPG apart from movement, industrial relations and other operational constraints. The situation is now satisfactory;

(b) Presently non-domestic consumers are being supplied with LPG cylinders with a blue band to prevent diversion of domestic cylinders to non-domestic consumers.

Proper utilisation of Gas

1268. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for proper utilisation of gas as a multi-purpose industrial feedstock in North-East region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) Gas has been committed in the North-Eastern Region for various uses such as power generation, fertilizer production, tea gardens, industrial and domestic use etc. More gas will be committed to other consumers as and when there is demand subject to availability of sufficient quantity.

Charges for replacement of damaged Regulators

1269. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by Government from LPG consumers that money is being charged to replace the defective regulators; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) Damaged/defective pressure regulators are replaced free of charge. The tariff rate (currently Rs. 75) is charged for replacement of defective regulators only where damages/defects are found, upon investigation, to have been caused by tampering/negligence on the part of the consumer.